Shocking study reveals household pesticides increase childhood leukemia deaths by 60%

09/16/2025 // Cassie B. // **340** Views

Tags: badcancer, badhealth, brodifacoum, cancer causes, Censored Science, chemical violence, chemicals, Dangerous, leukemia, pesticides, rodenticides, toxins

- Rodenticide exposure during pregnancy increases a child's risk of leukemia death by up to 91%.
- Over 90% of children in the study were exposed to pesticides before birth or shortly after.
- Rodenticides like brodifacoum pose the highest risk, causing fatal bleeding in children.

- Breastfeeding for six months or longer may reduce the deadly effects of pesticide exposure.
- Researchers demand stricter regulations and non-toxic pest control to protect children's lives.

A new study published in the journal *Cancers* has uncovered a disturbing link between pesticide exposure during pregnancy and a dramatically increased risk of death in children diagnosed with leukemia. The findings suggest that even common household chemicals may have devastating long-term effects on children's survival rates, raising urgent questions about the safety of widely used pesticides.

The federally funded study, conducted by researchers at the *University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)*, examined 837 children diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), the most common childhood cancer. The results were alarming: children exposed to pesticides during pregnancy had a 60% higher risk of death, while those exposed to rodenticides faced a staggering 91% increased risk of death.

A widespread and invisible threat

The study found that 92% of children were exposed to at least one type of pesticide during critical developmental periods either before birth or shortly after. This highlights just how pervasive these toxic chemicals are in homes and environments where children live.

Dr. Lena Winestone, a pediatric hematologist-oncologist at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals and co-author of the study, emphasized the gravity of the findings:

"This study highlights that exposures in the home environment, even before a child is born, may have lasting effects on survival after a leukemia diagnosis. While more research is needed, the findings underscore the importance of reducing children's exposure to harmful pesticides whenever possible."

Rodenticides pose the greatest danger

Among the pesticides studied, rodenticides—particularly brodifacoum—were linked to the highest mortality risk. Brodifacoum works by disrupting vitamin K recycling, leading to fatal bleeding in rodents. However, its toxicity doesn't stop there.

Karl Jablonowski, Ph.D., a senior research scientist at Children's Health Defense, warned that the study's implications are severe: "If correct, no person who is pregnant, or may become pregnant, absolutely should ever come into contact with brodifacoum. That is an absolute, beyond individual discretion."

He added that rodenticides spread easily, as rodents carry the poison into homes, putting unsuspecting families at risk.

Breastfeeding offers some protection

Interestingly, the study found that children who were breastfed for more than six months did not face the same increased mortality risk from pesticide exposure. This suggests that breastfeeding may provide a protective effect against some of the harmful impacts of these chemicals.

However, the overall message remains clear: pesticide exposure is a preventable risk factor that must be addressed to improve childhood cancer survival rates.

The study's authors called for further research into how pesticides affect cancer progression and treatment responses. They also urged public health officials to prioritize non-chemical pest control methods, especially during pregnancy and early childhood.

A growing body of evidence

This study is not the first to link pesticides to severe health risks in children. Previous research has found:

- A 41% higher risk of miscarriage among women exposed to pesticides (*Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety*).
- 47 different pesticides detected in household dust, drinking water, and urine samples (*Ecotoxicology and Public Health*).
- Cellular distress in children exposed to agricultural pesticides (*Environmental Toxicology and Pharmacology*).

Despite these findings, regulatory agencies have been slow to act. The recent White House Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) report acknowledged the need for research on chemical exposures but stopped short of implementing strict bans on hazardous pesticides.

What parents can do now

Given the widespread use of pesticides, parents and expectant mothers should take immediate steps to reduce exposure:

- Avoid rodenticides; opt for non-toxic pest control methods.
- Choose organic foods when possible to limit pesticide residues.
- Use natural alternatives for home pest management.

A wake-up call for public health

This study serves as a sobering reminder that cancer survival isn't just about medical treatment; it's also about the environment children grow up in. With pesticides found in nearly every home, the need for stricter regulations and greater public awareness has never been more urgent.

Sources for this article include:

ChildrensHealthDefense.org

News-Medical.net

MedicalXpress.com

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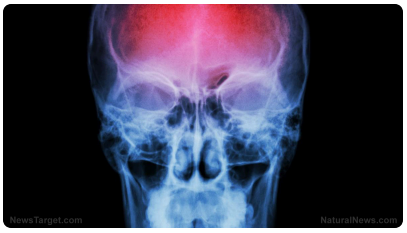

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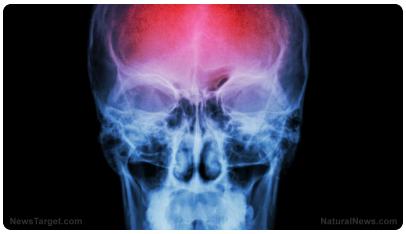

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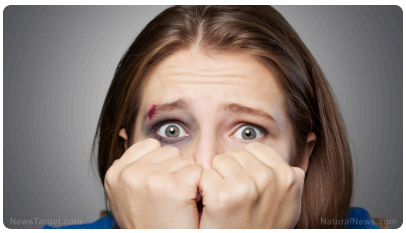

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